

**THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE:**

1. A method of construction of a fence support for a fence,  
characterised by the step of
  - a) fitting a sleeve over an upright support for a fence, the sleeve having at least one web configured to support lengths of material used in the fence.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the fence is an electric fence.
3. A method as claimed in either claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the sleeve is made from an at least partially made from insulating material.
4. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the upright support is a rod.
5. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the sleeve has internal projections providing a friction fit between the sleeve and the support.
6. A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein the projections are deformable.
7. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the sleeve is extruded or moulded.
8. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 characterised by the further step of  
attaching a cap to the top of sleeve/support combination.

WO 01/04440

PCT/NZ00/00104

9. A method of adapting a fence support characterised by applying the method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8.
10. A sleeve configured to fit over a support member for a fence characterised in that
- the sleeve has at least one web configured to support lengths of material used in the fence.
11. A sleeve as claimed in claim 10 which is extruded or moulded.
12. A sleeve as claimed in either claim 10 or claim 11 which has internal projections providing a friction fit between the sleeve and the support.
13. A sleeve as claimed in claim 12 wherein the projections are deformable.
14. A sleeve adapted to receive a cap that fits over the sleeve and the support.
15. A method of construction of a fence support for a fence substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated by the accompanying drawings.
16. A method of adapting a fence support substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated by the accompanying drawings.
17. A sleeve substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated by the accompanying drawings.

add  
A1

Add B1  
Add C2